

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A user interface tool comprising:

a software object creation process providing guidance to a user with respect to creation of a software object by said software object creation process; and

5 an information communication link to a software object editor, said link providing information with respect to said software object created by said software object creation process to facilitate operation of said software object editor with respect to said software object.

2. The user interface tool of claim 1 wherein said software object creation process comprises a software wizard.

3. The user interface tool of claim 1 wherein said software object comprises a data collector.

4. The user interface tool of claim 1 wherein said software object comprises a plurality of selectable attributes for which said software object creation process facilitates selection of by said user.

5. The user interface tool of claim 4 wherein said selectable attributes are configurable by said software object editor.

6. The user interface tool of claim 5 wherein said selectable attributes must be configured by said software object editor prior to proper operation of said software object.

7. The user interface tool of claim 1 further comprising:

a software object configuration option process providing said user with information with respect to configuration of said software object.

8. The user interface tool of claim 7 wherein said software object configuration option process provides selectable activation of said information communication link.

9. The user interface tool of claim 8 wherein said software object configuration option process further provides selectable repeating of said software object creation process.

10 The user interface tool of claim 1 wherein said information communication link is established after substantial completion of said software object creation process.

11. The user interface tool of claim 1 wherein said information communication link is established in proximity to selection of a software object attribute for which said software object editor provides configuration editing.

12. A method for configuring a software object, said method comprising:  
providing guidance to a user with respect to selection of attributes of a software  
object;  
providing information to said user with respect to configuring selected ones of said  
attributes of said software object; and  
5 providing information with respect to said software object to a software object editor  
to facilitate operation of said software object editor for configuring said selected ones of said  
attributes of said software object.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said providing guidance with respect to  
selection of attributes of said software object guides said user through creating said software  
object.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said software object created by said software  
object creation process comprises a data collector and said attributes of said software object  
include a data input aspect, a data processing aspect, and a data store aspect.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein said attributes of said software object are  
configured by said software object editor prior to proper operation of said software object.

16. The method of claim 12 wherein said providing information to said software  
object editor utilizes selectable activation of an information communication link between a  
user interface tool providing said guidance to said user and said software object editor.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising:  
activating said selectable activation of said information communication link upon  
substantial completion of said providing guidance to said user.

18. The method of claim 16 further comprising:  
activating said selectable activation of said information communication link upon  
selection of a software object aspect for which said software object editor provides  
configuration editing.

19. The method of claim 16 further comprising:  
repeating said providing guidance to said user, said providing information to said  
user, and providing information to said software object editor to thereby provide continuous  
configuration of a plurality of software objects.

20. A computer program product for use in creating a data collector and providing configuration of said data collector, said computer program product comprising:

a processor readable medium having processor readable code stored thereon, wherein said processor readable code includes;

5 a data collector creation process providing guidance to a user with respect to creation of a software object;

10 a data collector configuration option process operable after substantial completion of said data collector creation process, wherein said data collector configuration option process provides information with respect to configuration of said software object created by said data collector creation process, wherein said data collector configuration option process includes a user selectable option to establish a communication link with and launch an external editor process, said communication link providing information with respect to said data collector created by said data collector creation process to facilitate configuration of said data collector using said editor process, and wherein said data collector configuration option process also includes a user selectable option to repeat operation of said data collector creation process and said data collector configuration option process for creating and configuring a plurality of data collectors.